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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES & CANADANAVY SECRETARY LEHMAN HIT FOR ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA

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[Text of 27 May PRAVDA rejoinder by Andrey Tolkunov: "On Militarist Waves"]

[Text] Moscow, 27 May (TASS)--If prizes were given in official Washington for leading the competition to kindle anti-Soviet hysteria, then today it probably would be won by John Lehman, secretary of the navy.

Speaking at a dinner arranged in his honor by the New York TIMES editorial board, this figure swore publicly to exert all efforts to ensure that the American naval forces gain incontrovertible superiority over the Soviet ones. What for? This was his reply: "It is essential to turn the Soviets into an isolated island so that we can have the rest of the world."

The excited speaker is so tossed about on militarist waves that he intends to "lock" the Soviet Navy in the Baltic, Barents, Okhotsk and Black Seas--and not let it go any further! Precisely for the sake of achieving this goal, declared the secretary, another 150 warships will be built in the coming years.

It is difficult not to recall the saying: It looks easy on paper.... In reality, however, this gentleman has so far achieved only one goal. He was shown from whom comes the real threat to peace--from the American military.

CIA-MUST 'EAT ITS WORDS' ON OIL CRISIS PREDICTION

LD270821 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 81 p 5

[Correspondent N. Kurdyumov "Rejoinder": "They Have Eaten Their Words"]

[Text] Washington, 20 May--As is known, for a number of years the CIA has been predicting the inevitability of an "oil crisis" in the Soviet Union and suddenly, as they say in America, it has had to eat its own words. As the New York TIMES reports, intelligence department experts now believe that in the eighties the Soviet Union will still be in a position to satisfy its own energy needs without resorting to importing oil.

The declaration is significant in many ways. Back in 1977 the CIA, citing an analysis by experts, launched a provocative "canard" about an inevitable reduction in oil extraction in the Soviet Union at the start of the eighties. Citing this information, U.S. strategists and propaganda over a number of years became highly skilled in their inventions about the USSR's transformation into a major oil importer, and measuring everything by their own predatory imperialist yardstick, composed all kinds of malicious versions of the "Soviet threat" to seize the oil riches in the Near and Middle East.

Moreover, following the Carter administration, which proclaimed as the basis of its expansionist policy in the Near and Middle East and also in the Persian Gulf region the so-called doctrine of defense of the "vital interests" of the United States (of the American oil monopolies, that is), this notorious CIA myth about the Soviet threat was seized upon with enthusiasm by the new administration.

Now, after the self-exposure of the CIA fabrication, the question which inevitably arises is: To what new inventions and maneuvers will Washington figures resort in order to justify their imperialist policy?